

Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary

January 23, 2001

7:30 p.m.

Department of Environmental Protection

Members Present:

John Ray, Chair
Morris Altschuler
Robert Brown
Bernard Bordenick
Stanley Doore
Mary Fowler
Milton Minneman
Frank Stodolsky
Charles Wilkes

Members Absent:

Douglas Canter
Neal Goldenberg
Jeffrey Komarrow
Susan Mitchell
Edward Ohanian
Matthew Van Patten

Staff:

Ann Elsen

The chair, John Ray, called the January 23, 2001 EAQAC meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. in the Department of Environmental Protection conference room at 255 Rockville Pike.

The November 21, 2001 Meeting Summary was approved without revision. The schedule of meetings for 2001 was reviewed, and it was agreed upon that future meetings would take place in the DEP conference room.

The Committee discussed the current electricity crisis in California and ways in which deregulation proceeded differently in Maryland. Areas of interest included the requirement for power reserves, the ability of Maryland electric companies to enter into long term contracts, transmission and capacity issues, and rate caps. An article is currently posted on the DEP web page addressing these topics, titled "Electricity Deregulation Update." The Energy Subcommittee will review this topic further.

The chair described the annual meeting with the County Executive, which took place on January 11. John Ray, Mary Fowler, Charles Wilkes, Ann Elsen and Mary Richmond attended. A brief two-page summary of EAQAC activities and goals was presented. The Committee will prepare a longer draft, with greater detail to send to the County Executive as follow-up to the meeting.

Robert Brown drafted a letter to the County Executive in support of an initiative of the Department of Permitting Services to establish a mechanical permit, and provide for appropriate design review and inspections. The Committee suggested several minor revisions to the letter. In addition, it was suggested that Shahriar Amiri, Chief of the Division of Building Construction, be provided an opportunity to review the letter and make comments. Mr. Brown will make the changes to the letter, John Ray will sign the final draft,

and it will be forwarded to the County Executive prior to the next meeting.

The Committee discussed potential initiatives for the County fleet, and the development of a compressed natural gas powered bus fleet by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. The Transportation Subcommittee is interested in increasing communication with the County fleet operators, and providing information and assistance of alternative fuel options. As a result of the meeting with the County Executive, his office will provide the Committee with an appropriate contact in fleet operations. John Ray will make initial contact and arrange a meeting. Frank Stodolsky has already had conversations with Aubrey Bentham regarding fleet operations.

Ann Elsen conveyed to the Committee a message from Mary Richmond that she has briefed the County Executive on Chapter 3. The briefing went very well and it is expected that Mr. Duncan will forward Chapter 3 to the County Council for approval very soon. EAQAC will draft a letter of support and prepare testimony for the public hearing. Mary will keep members informed of the Council's schedule.

Milt Minneman has spoken with the Director of Pepco Energy Services and invited him to give a presentation at a future EAQAC meeting. He will try to schedule this for the meeting on February 27.

The Committee discussed planning of activities for 2001. It was decided that subcommittees will consider succession planning, keep issues simple and directly relevant to the County, and focus on a small number of topics that can be addressed during 2001. EAQAC's strategic planning will include the following components:

- Overarching Goals - Long-term goals that EAQAC can focus on that are of interest to the County and can be directly effected by the County.
- Committee Objectives - Specific objectives for EAQAC to persue as a full Committee.
- Specific Activities - Activities that will be carried out by subcommittees during the current year to support EAQAC objectives.

The chair adjourned the meeting of the full Committee at approximately 9:00 p.m. in order that subcommittees might meet to work on setting priorities for the coming year. Subcommittees then convened at various locations in the offices of the Department of Environmental Protection. All subcommittees adjourned at approximately 9:50 p.m.

The next meeting will be held on February 27, 2001 at the Department of Environmental Protection, 255 Rockville Pike, second floor.

Meeting summary provided by Ann Elsen.